

REMARKS

The examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search and for entering the Applicant's submission filed on August 10, 2005.

Claims 5-7, 9-10, 12, 14, and 23-24 have been amended. Claims 1, 11, 13, 21, and 22 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Hence, Claims 5-7, 9-10, 12, 14, 16-20, and 23-24 are pending in the application.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 16-20 are allowed.

Claims 5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14, and 23-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 11, 13, and 21-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Reid, U.S. Patent No. 6,131,120 ("REID").

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over REID in view of Day, II et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,968,116 ("DAY").

II. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Office Action has indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on August 10, 2005 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), and for this reason the reference submitted in that IDS has not been considered by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) applies only to references that are not in the English language. Since the reference submitted in the IDS filed on

August 10, 2005 is in the English language, it is respectfully submitted that the IDS is proper and the Examiner is required to consider the reference submitted therein. For this reason, it is respectfully requested that the reference submitted in the IDS filed on August 10, 2005 be considered, and that an initialed form PTO-1449 acknowledging that fact be returned in the next communication from the Office.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form and has been amended to incorporate all the features of the now-canceled Claim 1. For this reason, Claim 5 is allowable, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claim 5 are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form and has been amended to incorporate all the features of the now-canceled Claim 1. For this reason, Claim 7 is allowable, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claim 7 are respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to depend from Claim 5. Thus, each of Claims 9 and 10 incorporates all the features of the now-independent Claim 5. Therefore, Claims 9 and 10 are allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 5. In addition, the Office Action has indicated that each of Claims 9 and 10 introduces one or more additional features that independently render it patentable. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections of Claims 9 and 10 are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form and has been amended to incorporate all the features of the now-canceled Claim 11. For this reason, Claim 12 is allowable, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claim 12 are respectfully requested.

Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form and has been amended to incorporate all the features of the now-canceled Claim 13. For this reason, Claim 14 is allowable, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claim 14 are respectfully requested.

Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form and has been amended to incorporate all the features of the now-canceled Claim 22. For this reason, Claim 23 is allowable, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claim 23 are respectfully requested.

Claim 24 has been amended to depend from the Claim 23. Thus, Claim 24 incorporates all the features of the now-independent Claim 23. Therefore, Claim 24 is allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 23. In addition, the Office Action has indicated that Claim 24 introduces one or more additional features that independently render it patentable. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of Claim 24 are respectfully requested.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Rejected Claims 1, 11, 13, and 21-22 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is moot.

V. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 6 has been amended to depend from Claim 5. Thus, Claim 6 incorporates all the features of the now-independent Claim 5. Therefore, Claim 6 is allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 5. In addition, Claim 6 introduces one or more additional features that independently render it patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case a separate discussion of those features is not included at this time. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 6 is allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 5. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over REID in view of DAY are respectfully requested.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed. Further, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

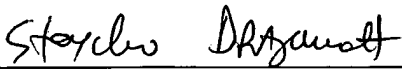
A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firms check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout

the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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